AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions and lists of claims:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A therapeutic composition for administration via the pulmonary airways comprising dry, discrete, water-soluble microparticles which comprise a water-soluble carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of therapeutic agent, wherein said microparticles have a mean size of between 1 and 10 microns, wherein the water-soluble carrier is selected from simple and complex carbohydrates, and further wherein the therapeutic agent is a protein, peptide or enzyme.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The composition according to Claim [[21]] 20, wherein the water-soluble carrier is mannitol.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The composition according to Claim [[21]] 20, wherein the water-soluble carrier material is a polysaccharide.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the microparticles comprise at least 50% by weight water-soluble carrier.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Currently amended): The composition according to Claim [[25]] 20, wherein the protein is selected from insulin, parathyroid hormone, alpha-1 antitrypsin and calcitonin.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 26, wherein the protein is insulin.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A dry powder inhaler comprising a composition according to Claim 20.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the microparticles form a free-flowing powder.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the size of the microparticles is such that 90% of a mass of the microparticles lie within a respirable region of 1-5 μm.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the microparticles are between 1 μm and 5 μm in size.

Claim 32 (New): A therapeutic composition for administration via pulmonary airways comprising dry, discrete microparticles which comprise a water-soluble carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of therapeutic agent, wherein said microparticles have a mean size of between 1 and 10 microns, wherein the water-soluble carrier is selected from simple and complex carbohydrates, and further wherein the therapeutic agent is a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin, parathyroid hormone, alpha-1 antitrypsin and calcitonin.

Claim 33 (New): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the microparticles further comprise an additive that modifies a physical property of the microparticles selected from the group consisting of dispersibility, elasticity and water permeability.

Claim 34 (New): The composition according to Claim 33, wherein the additive is a phospholipids.